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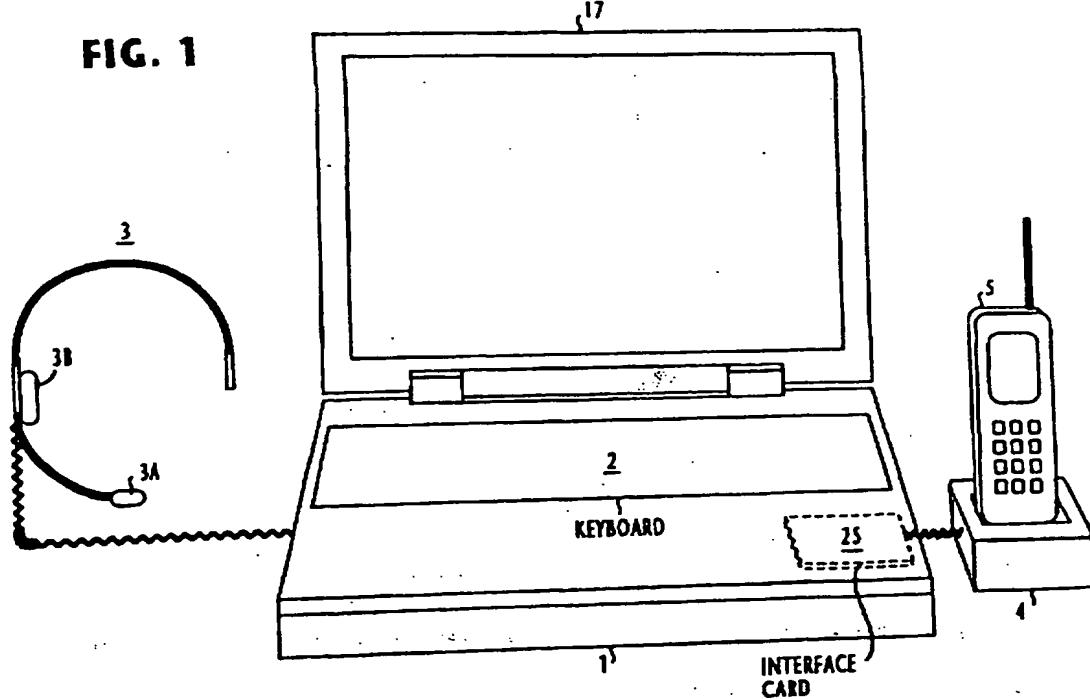
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(54) Abstract Title
Charging mobile telephone battery from a computer connection

(57) A mobile telephone 5 is connected to a computer 1 via a connector 4 having a recess to receive the telephone and an interface card 25 to interface with a serial port (e.g. a USB port) of the computer. The computer can issue control commands including switching ON/OFF to the phone and charging of the phone battery from the computer battery (19, fig 2) is based on the battery in the computer being charged to a voltage higher than a preset level detected using a voltage sensor (22, fig 2) in the interface card which activates battery charger (23, fig 2). There is also described voice recognition of stored phone numbers, an on screen display of the telephone and a facsimile transceiver.

FIG. 1



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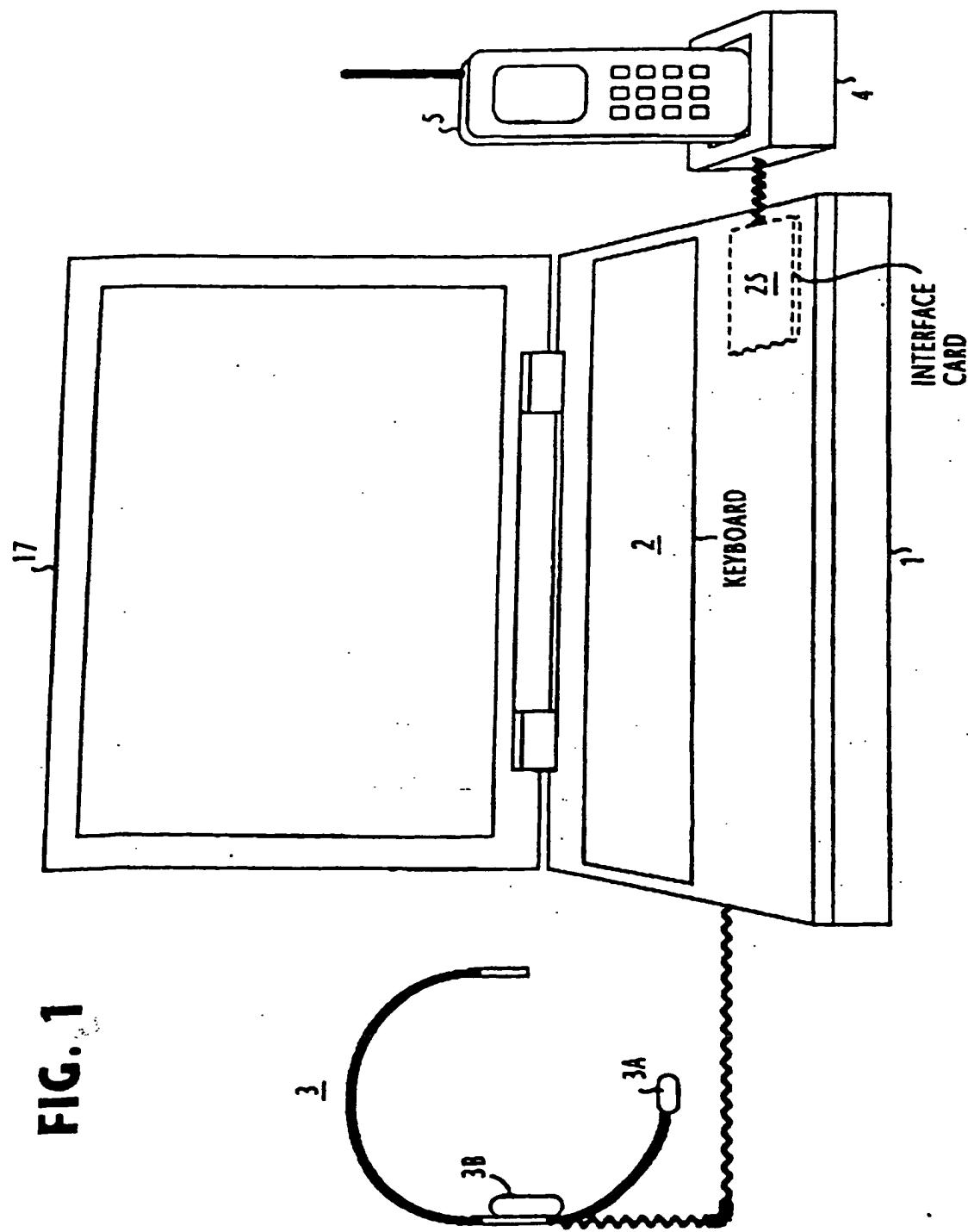


FIG. 2
COMPUTER

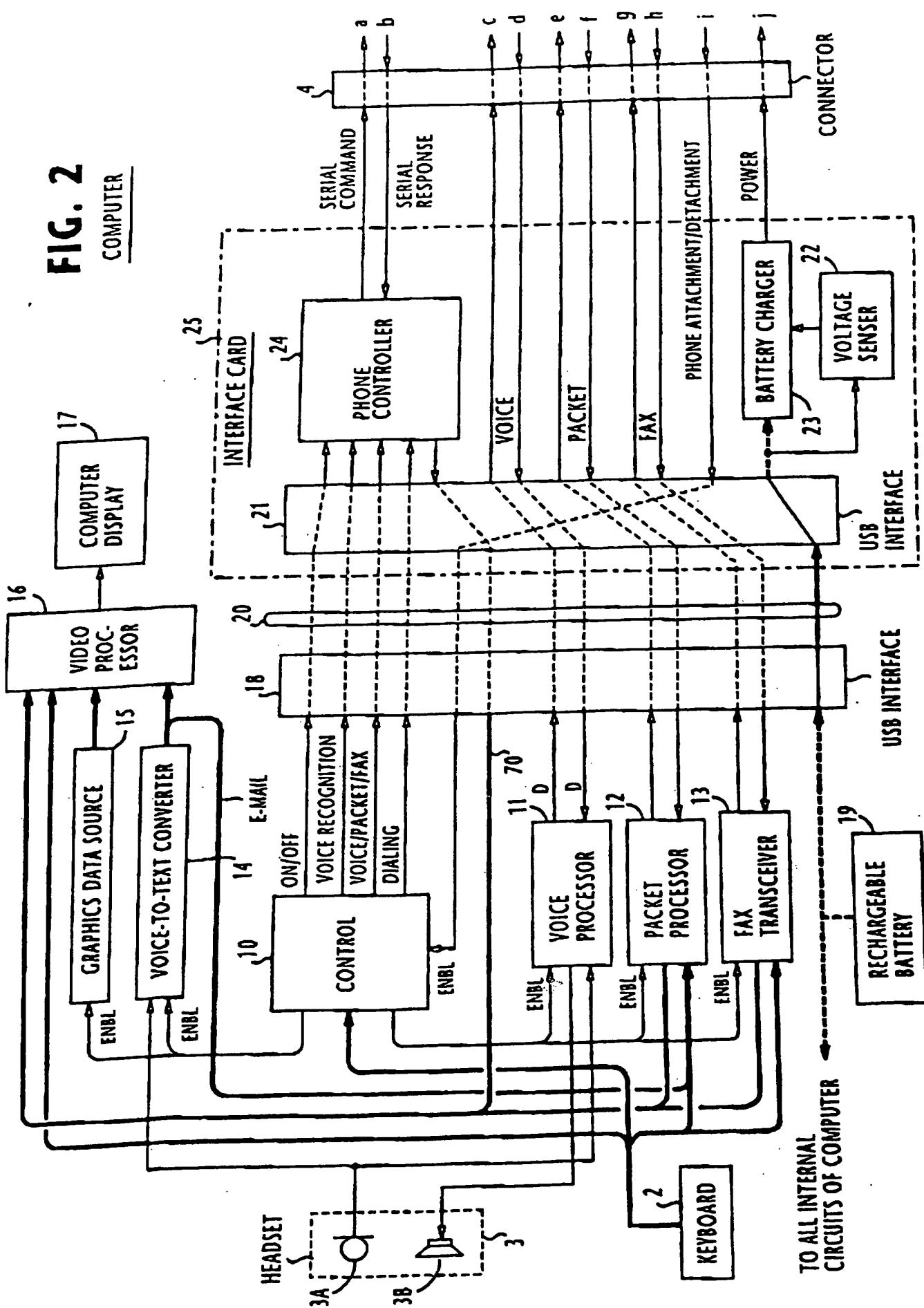


FIG. 3 MOBILE UNIT

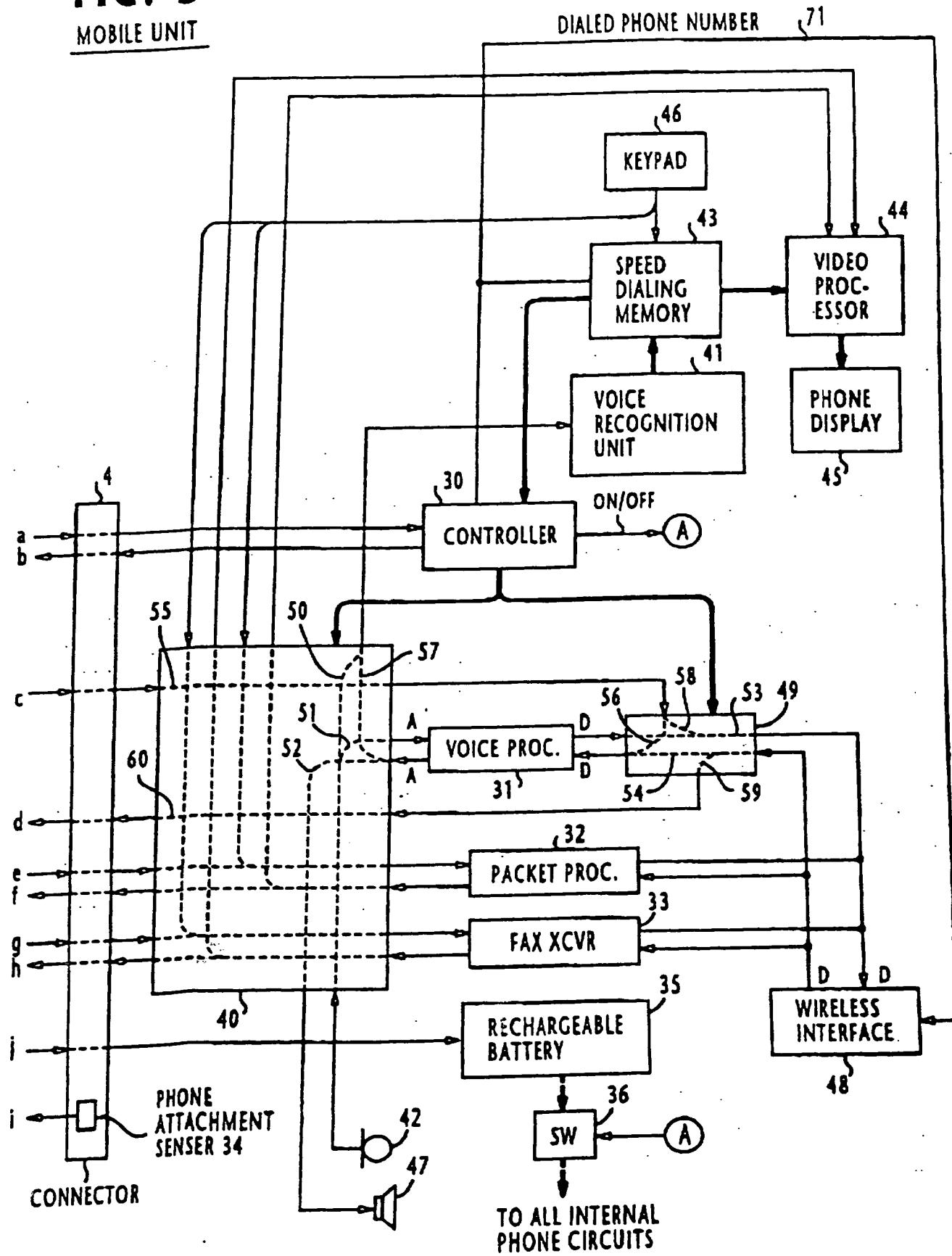
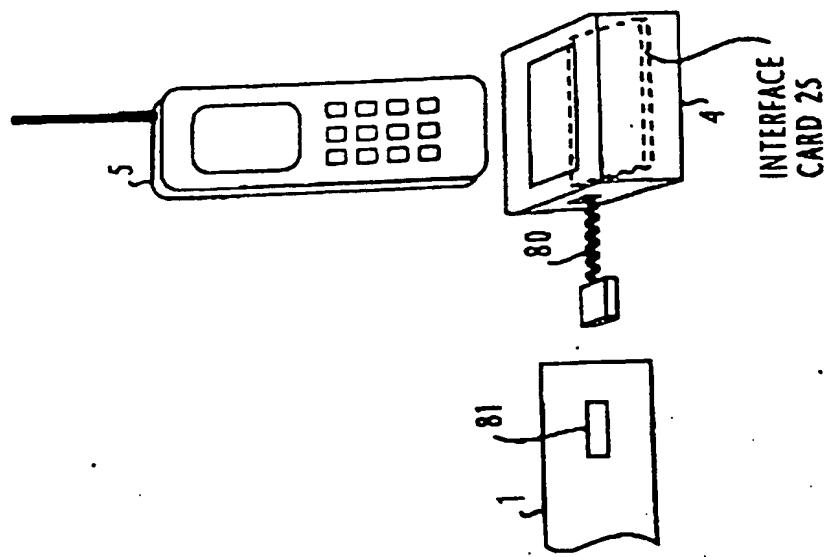
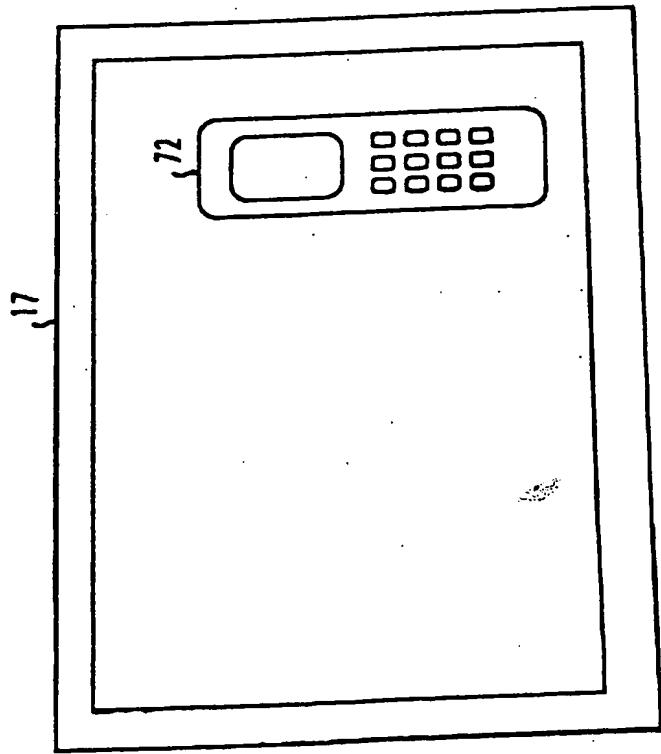


FIG. 4
FIG. 5



Method and System for Connecting a Mobile Communication Unit
to a Personal Computer

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

6 The present invention relates generally to personal computers, and
7 more specifically to a method and a system for connecting a mobile unit to a
8 computer.

9 Description of the Related Prior Art

10 It is known to use a connection device for coupling a cellular mobile
11 telephone to a personal computer to provide data communication via a
12 mobile network. A known connection device, as disclosed in Japanese Patent
13 Publication 97-162960, is comprised of an AC-DC converter battery charger
14 for charging the battery of the mobile unit with energy obtained from a
15 commercial AC outlet. However, due to the use of AC-DC converter battery
16 charger, a commercial AC outlet must be available at a suitable location and a
17 power supply cord must be attached to the connection device for receiving
18 AC energy from the power outlet. Another connection device, disclosed in
19 Japanese Patent Publication 98-285254, includes a first power connector
20 exclusively for use in charging the battery of a mobile unit and a second
21 power connector exclusively for use in operating the mobile unit. These
22 power connectors are provided separately from a data connector that is used
23 to transport data between the mobile unit and a personal computer. While
24 the use of two power connectors allows the mobile unit to proceed to
25 communicate with the mobile network while its battery is being charged, a

1 power supply cord is still required to receive energy from an external power
2 source.

3 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

4 It is therefore an object of the preferred embodiments of the present
5 invention to relieve the user of a computer and a mobile communication unit
6 from the need to find a commercial AC output or a separate external power
7 source and the need to use a power supply code for feeding the mobile unit.

8 According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a
9 method of connecting a mobile communication unit to a computer,
10 comprising the steps of: establishing a plurality of connections between
11 internal circuitry of the mobile communication unit having a rechargeable
12 battery and internal circuitry of a computer through a plurality of connector
13 ports, supplying power from a power source of the computer to the
14 rechargeable battery of the mobile communication unit, and controlling the
15 mobile communication unit through one of the connections according to a
16 command signal supplied to the computer.

17 According to a second aspect, the present invention provides a system
18 for connecting a mobile communication unit to a computer. The system
19 comprises: a connector having a recess for holding the mobile communication
20 unit and a plurality of connector ports, switching circuitry for selectively
21 establishing a connection between the internal circuitry of the computer and
22 the internal circuitry of the mobile communication unit through the connector
23 ports, power supply circuitry for supplying power from a power source of
24 the computer to a rechargeable battery of the mobile communication unit,
25 and control circuitry for controlling the mobile communication unit through

1 the established connection according to a command signal entered to the
2 computer.

3 According to a third aspect, the present invention provides a
4 connection device for establishing connections between a computer and a
5 mobile communication unit having a rechargeable battery. The connection
6 device comprises: a connector having a recess for holding the mobile
7 communication unit and a plurality of connector ports, and an interface card
8 connected through the connector ports to the internal circuitry of the mobile
9 communication unit and connected through a serial port to the internal
10 circuitry of the computer. The interface card includes power supply circuitry
11 for supplying power from a power source of the computer to the
12 rechargeable battery of the mobile communication unit, switching circuitry
13 for selectively establishing a connection between the internal circuitry of the
14 computer and the internal circuitry of the mobile communication unit
15 through the connector ports, and control circuitry for controlling the mobile
16 communication unit through the connection according to a command signal
17 entered to the computer.

18 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

19 Preferred features of the present invention will now be described, by
20 way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in
21 which:-

22 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a notebook computer and a connector
23 for coupling a mobile unit to the computer according to the present invention;

24 Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a personal computer and an interface card
25 according to the present invention;

1 Fig. 3 is a block diagram of a mobile unit according to the present
2 invention;

3 Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a computer screen on which a simulated
4 image of the mobile unit is displayed; and

5 Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a connector in which the interface card
6 of the present invention is installed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

7 Referring to Fig. 1, there is shown a personal computer and a
8 connector 4 for coupling a mobile communication unit 5 to the computer 1
9 and for operating the mobile unit 5 from the computer 1 according to the
10 present invention. For the purpose of disclosure, the computer 1 is shown
11 and described as a notebook computer having a keyboard 2 incorporated as
12 an integral part of the computer. A headset 3 is connected to the computer 1
13 to be used by the computer user. The connector 4 has a recess in which the
14 mobile unit 5 is placed in an upright position. Connector 4 establishes
15 connections between its internal circuitry and an interface card 25 inserted in
16 a slot formed in the housing of computer 1.

17 In Fig. 2, the notebook computer 1 includes a control circuit 10 to
18 which the keyboard 2 of the computer 1 is connected, a voice processor 11, a
19 packet processor 12 and a fax transceiver 13, all of which are connected to a
20 USB (universal serial bus) interface 18. Voice processor 11 has a first analog
21 input port for receiving a voice signal from the microphone 3A and converts
22 it to a digital voice signal at a rate much lower than 64 kbps and a first digital
23 output port from which the digital voice signal is delivered. In addition, the
24 voice processor 11 has a second digital input port for receiving a lower-than-
25 voice signal.

1 64 kbps digital voice signal from the mobile unit 5 and converts it to an
2 analog voice signal and a second analog output port from which the analog
3 voice signal is delivered to the speaker 3B.

4 In response to command signals from the keyboard 2, the controller 10
5 produces a number of control signals including an on/off control signal for
6 providing a power-on-off control over the mobile unit 5, a voice recognition
7 control signal for controlling the voice recognition circuit of the mobile unit, a
8 mode control signal for operating the mobile unit in one of voice, packet and
9 facsimile modes, and a dialing signal for placing a call in a manner as will be
10 described. Further provided is a voice-to-text converter 14 connected to the
11 microphone 3A for converting the voice input into character data, which is
12 displayed via a video processor 16 on the screen of a display unit 17. A voice-
13 input message for an electronic mail can be produced in this way and
14 transmitted in packets from the packet processor 12.

15 A graphics data source 15 is provided to respond to an input from the
16 keyboard 2 to produce a simulated image of the mobile unit on the computer
17 screen in order that the user is given an impression that he is directly
18 operating the mobile's keypad from the keyboard 2. All internal circuits of
19 the computer 1 are supplied with a DC voltage from a rechargeable battery
20 19, which also supplies its power to the mobile unit via the USB interface 18.
21 Keyboard 2 supplies a command to the controller 10 for enabling the voice-to-
22 text converter 14 and the graphics data source 15.

23 Interface card 25 is connected to the connector 4 via industry-
24 standardized connector ports designated "a" through "j" and a grounded
25 port not shown. Interface card 25 includes a USB interface 21 which is

1 coupled through a USB port 20 to the USB interface 18 of the computer 1.
2 Battery power is supplied through the two power lines of the four-wire USB
3 port 20 and all signals between the USB interfaces 18 and 21 are carried on the
4 two signal lines of the USB port 20. The dotted lines in Fig. 2 indicate logical
5 connections which will be established between the two USB interfaces under
6 control of the controller 10 and phone controller 24.

7 A voltage sensor 22 and a battery charger 23 are provided. Voltage
8 sensor 22 monitors the USB power lines to detect the voltage level of the
9 rechargeable battery 19 and activates the battery charger 23 for charging the
10 rechargeable battery of the mobile unit 5 when the computer's rechargeable
11 battery 19 is charged at a level higher than a specified voltage.

12 A phone controller 24, provided in the interface card 25, is connected
13 between the USB interface 21 and the connector 4. Phone controller 24
14 receives an on-off control signal from the controller 10 for controlling the
15 power switch of the mobile unit 5 and supplying serial command data to and
16 receiving serial response data from the mobile unit 5. Electronic mail can be
17 exchanged in serial data through the phone controller 24. The user can
18 benefit from the large computer screen to prepare text messages for e-mail
19 transmission and keep a record of transmitted e-mail messages in a hard disk
20 of the computer.

21 The voice recognition control signal from the controller 10 is repeated
22 by the phone controller 24 to the mobile unit 5 in order to receive a response
23 signal (text data) indicating a phone number corresponding to an uttered
24 subscriber name into the microphone 3A. A phone attachment/detachment
25 signal is received from the connector 4, the signal being applied to the USB

1 interface 21 for activating the controller 10 when the mobile unit 5 is held in
2 upright position on the connector 4.

3 In Fig. 3, the mobile unit 5 includes a controller 30 for providing
4 interactive communication with the phone controller 24 by exchanging serial
5 command and serial response signals. A voice processor 31 similar to the
6 voice processor 11 is provided. A packet processor 32 and a fax transceiver
7 33 are provided for communication with the packet processor 12 and fax
8 transceiver 13. A phone attachment sensor 34 is provided in the connector 4
9 to supply a phone attachment signal through connector port "i" to the
10 interface card 25 in order to activate the controller 10 when the mobile unit is
11 placed on the connector 4. When the mobile unit is removed from the
12 connector 4, a phone detachment signal will be sent to the computer 1.

13 The mobile unit 5 has a rechargeable battery 35 that is charged with
14 the DC voltage supplied from the rechargeable battery 19 of the computer.
15 All internal circuits of the mobile unit 5 except for power saving circuitry are
16 energized by the battery 35 via a power switch 36 which is controlled by an
17 ON/Off control signal from the controller 30.

18 Switches 40 and 49 are provided to selectively establish paths or
19 logical connections under control of the controller 30, as indicated by the
20 dotted lines.

21 A wireless interface 48 is connected to the voice processor 31, packet
22 processor 32 and fax transceiver 33 as well as to the memory 43 to receive a
23 dialed phone number. Wireless interface 48 establishes a wireless
24 communication link to the mobile network and initiates a call according to
25 the phone number supplied from the memory 43. During an exclusively

1 mobile mode, the switch 40 connects the voice processor 31 to the
2 microphone 42 and a speaker 47 and connects the packet processor 32 and fax
3 transceiver 33 to the video processor 44 and the keypad 46.

4 Mobile unit 5 is provided with a voice recognition unit 41. When the
5 mobile unit is not connected to the computer 1 and the voice recognition unit
6 41 can be used for addressing the speed dialing memory 43 for a phone
7 number corresponding to an input voice. In this case, the controller 30
8 controls the switch 40 to establish a path 50 for coupling the microphone 42 to
9 the voice recognition unit 41. The voice input from the microphone 42 is
10 converted by the voice recognition unit 41 to text data, which is used by the
11 memory 43 to make a search for a corresponding phone number, the phone
12 number being displayed on the display panel 45 and used for initiating a call
13 to the mobile network through a wireless interface 48. When a call is
14 established, the controller 30 controls the switches 40 and 49 so that paths 51
15 and 52 are established between the microphone 42 and speaker 47 on the one
16 hand and the analog input and output ports of the voice processor 31 on the
17 other, and paths 53 and 54 are established between the digital output and
18 input ports of the voice processor 31 and the wireless interface 48.

19 Speed dialing memory 43 is connected to a video processor 44,
20 through which phone numbers read out of the memory 43 can be displayed
21 on a phone display panel 45. When the mobile unit is not attached to the
22 computer 1, the phone display 45 provides a display of a phone number
23 supplied from the speed dialing memory 43 and textual data generated by a
24 keypad 46.

25 The following is a description of the operation of the computer 1 when

1 the mobile unit 5 is attached to the computer by way of the connector 4.

2 When the mobile unit 5 is held in position on the recess of connector 4,
3 the phone attachment sensor 34 senses its presence and produces a phone
4 attachment signal, which is sent through connector port "i" to the controller
5 10 via USB interfaces 21 and 18. Note that all signals communicated between
6 the USB interfaces 18 and 21 over the USB port 20 are in the form of packets.
7 Controller 10 is enabled in response to the phone attachment signal so that it
8 is ready for accepting command signals from the keyboard 2.

9 In response to a keyboard operation by the user, the controller 10
10 produces a turn-on signal, which is sent through the phone controller 24 to
11 the controller 30 of the mobile unit and turns on the switch 36. Mobile unit 5
12 is activated to establish a wireless control channel to the mobile network. As
13 long as the voltage of rechargeable battery 19 is higher than a specified level,
14 the voltage sensor 22 will activate the battery charger 23 for charging the
15 mobile's rechargeable battery 35 through connector port "j".

16 If the user desires to place a phone call using the mobile's speed
17 dialing memory 43 and voice recognition unit 41 in a manner similar to that
18 during the exclusive mobile mode, he sets the controller 10 through the
19 keyboard 2 to produce a voice recognition control signal and a telephony
20 (voice) mode signal, which are applied to the phone controller 24. Controller
21 24 repeats the signals to the controller 30 via connector port "a". Controller
22 30 operates the switches 40 and 49 to establish paths 55 and 56 for connecting
23 the digital output of voice processor 11 which is applied through connector
24 port "c" to the digital input of voice processor 31 and a path 57 (in switch 40)
25 for connecting the analog output of the voice processor 31 to the voice

1 recognition unit 41. Simultaneously, the voice processor 11 is enabled by the
2 controller 10.

3 The user then utters the name of a called party into the microphone
4 3A. The voice signal from the microphone 3A is applied to the voice
5 processor 11, where the voice input is converted to a low-rate digital speech
6 signal and sent through connector port "c" to the voice processor 31. An
7 analog voice output is generated by the voice processor 31 and applied
8 through the path 57 to the voice recognition unit 41 and converted to text
9 data, which is used by the memory 43 to make a search for a corresponding
10 phone number. This phone number is sent from the controller 30 through
11 connector port "b" to the phone controller 24, where it is delivered through a
12 control bus 70 to the video processor 16 and displayed on the screen of the
13 computer display 17. On the other hand, the same phone number is supplied
14 on line 71 (Fig. 3) to the wireless interface 48 for initiating a call. When a call
15 is established, the controller 30 controls the switches 40 and 49 so that paths
16 58, 59 and 60 are established for connecting the digital output of voice
17 processor 11 (which is received through connector port "c") to the digital
18 input of the wireless interface 48 and connecting the digital output of wireless
19 interface 48 to the digital input of voice processor 11 via connector port "d".

20 When the user activates the graphics data source 15 through keyboard
21 2, an image 72 of the mobile unit 5 is displayed on the computer screen as
22 shown in Fig. 4.

23 By operating a numeral key on the keyboard 2, the corresponding key
24 is lit on the simulated mobile's image. At the same time, the entered numeral
25 data is sent from the controller 10 to the phone controller 24 which repeats

1 the signal to the mobile controller 30. By repeating this process, the user can
2 enter the address information of a called party and the controller 30 receives
3 this address information and sends it to the wireless interface 48 through line
4 71, which then establishes a communication link through the cellular mobile
5 network.

6 When the user enables the voice-to-text converter 14 through the
7 keyboard 2, a voice message can be entered through the microphone 3A to
8 the voice-to-text converter 14, from which a text-converted data is supplied to
9 the video processor 16 and displayed on the computer screen. An electronic
10 mail can be formulated with such text data and transmitted to the mobile's
11 controller 30 through USB interfaces 18, 21 and phone controller 24 to the
12 connector port "a". In this way, the user is relieved of having to manipulate
13 the mobile's small keys which are usually need to be operated repeatedly for
14 entering a desired character.

15 Phone controller 24 allows phone numbers entered through the
16 keyboard 2 to be transmitted as serial data through connector port "a" and
17 stored into the speed dialing memory 43 of the mobile unit and allows e-mail
18 messages to be displayed on the computer screen, instead of on the small-
19 sized mobile's screen. Further, the phone controller 24 allows all operating
20 status information of the mobile unit 5 to be received through serial data port
21 "b" and put on display on the computer screen.

22 The user can specify from the keyboard 2 to the controller 10 as to
23 which one of packet and facsimile modes is used to initiate a call. In response
24 to such a keyboard input, the controller 10 produces a mode select signal
25 (packet/fax) and enables one of the packet processor 12 or fax transceiver 13,

1 which is repeated by the phone controller 24 to the mobile's controller 30 via
2 connector port "a". Controller 30, in response, establishes a two-way path in
3 the switch 40 between one of the packet processor 12 and fax transceiver 13
4 and a corresponding one of the packet processor 32 and fax transceiver 33.

5 If the call is in a telephony mode, the voice input to the microphone 3A
6 is applied to the voice processor 11, where the signal is converted according
7 to a predetermined coding algorithm to a lower-than-64-kbps digital voice
8 signal and passed through the switches 40 and 49 to the wireless interface 48.
9 This signal is translated to an uplink signal and transmitted to the mobile
10 network. Digital voice signal from the network is carried on a downlink
11 signal and received by the wireless interface 48, the digital voice signal being
12 supplied via the switches 49 and 40 and connector ports "c" and "d" to the
13 voice processor 11 where it is processed back to the original analog signal and
14 applied to the speaker 3B.

15 If the mode select signal from the controller 10 indicates that the user
16 wishes to send packets, the packet processor 12 is enabled by the controller 10
17 to send packets to the mobile's packet processor 32 via connector port "e" for
18 transmission to the mobile network. Packets from the network are first
19 processed by the mobile's packet processor 32 and sent to the computer's
20 packet processor 12 to be displayed on the computer screen. In a similar
21 manner, the fax transceivers 13 and 33 are used for exchanging fax signals
22 with remote stations.

23 It is seen that the user is relieved from the need to find a commercial
24 AC outlet for charging the mobile unit 5 and from the need to use a power
25 code for coupling the mobile unit to the AC outlet. Another advantage of the

1 present invention is that since the AC power supply is not necessary the
2 mobile unit 5 no longer needs an AC-DC converter battery charger and the
3 extra weight it represents to the mobile unit.

4 With the combined use of a personal computer and a mobile unit, the
5 user can access a wide range of multimedia applications on a simultaneous
6 basis by utilizing the large screen size of the computer and the communication
7 functions of the mobile unit -- such as video, voice and fax services.

8 Fig. 5 shows an alternative embodiment of the present invention. In
9 this embodiment, the interface card 25 is located within the housing of the
10 connector 4. In this case, the USB port 20 takes the form of a four-wire
11 cable 80 extending from the connector 4 to a USB port 81 of the computer 1.

12 While the present invention has been described in its preferred
13 embodiments, it is to be understood that the words which have been used are
14 words of description rather than limitation, and that changes may be made to
15 the invention without departing from its scope as defined by the appended
16 claims.

17 Each feature disclosed in this specification (which term includes the
18 claims) and/or shown in the drawings may be incorporated in the invention
19 independently of other disclosed and/or illustrated features.

20 The text of the abstract filed herewith is repeated here as part of the
21 specification.

22 A mobile communication unit is connected to a computer by a
23 connector. The connector has a recess for holding the mobile unit in position,
24 and a number of connector ports. Switching circuitry is provided for
25 selectively establishing a logical connection between the internal circuitry of

1 the computer and the internal circuitry of the mobile unit through the
2 connector ports. The DC power source of the computer is used to charge the
3 rechargeable battery of the mobile unit. The mobile communication unit is
4 controlled according to a command signal entered into the computer.

CLAIMS:

- 1 1. A method of connecting a mobile communication unit to a
2 computer, comprising the steps of:
 - 3 a) establishing a plurality of connections between internal
4 circuitry of said mobile communication unit having a rechargeable battery
5 and internal circuitry of a computer through a plurality of connector ports;
 - 6 b) supplying power from a power source of said computer to said
7 rechargeable battery of the mobile communication unit; and,
 - 8 c) controlling said mobile communication unit through one of said
9 connections according to a command signal supplied to said computer.
- 1 2. The connecting method of claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises
2 detecting a voltage generated by said power source of the computer and
3 supplying power to said mobile communication unit when the detected
4 voltage is higher than a specified voltage level.
- 1 3. The connecting method of claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises
2 the step of providing power on-off control on said mobile communication
3 unit according a command signal entered to said computer.
- 1 4. The connecting method of claim 1, wherein said mobile
2 communication unit comprises a voice recognition circuit and a memory for
3 storing a plurality of stored phone numbers and reading one of the stored
4 phone numbers corresponding to an output signal of the voice recognition
5 circuit, and wherein step (c) comprises supplying a voice signal from a
6 microphone to said voice recognition circuit, receiving a phone number read
7 from said memory in response to an output signal of the voice recognition

8 circuit which is produced as a result of said voice signal, and displaying the
9 received phone number on a screen of said computer.

1 5. The connecting method of claim 1, further comprising
2 displaying a simulated image of said mobile communication unit on a screen
3 of said computer.

1 6. The connecting method of claim 1, wherein said computer is
2 provided with a voice input/output device, and wherein step (c) comprises
3 controlling said mobile communication unit to establish a wireless link
4 between said voice input/output device and a mobile communication
5 network.

1 7. The connecting method of claim 1, wherein said computer is
2 provided with a packet processor, and wherein step (c) comprises controlling
3 said mobile communication unit to establish a wireless link between said
4 packet processor and a mobile communication network.

1 8. The connecting method of claim 1, wherein said computer is
2 provided with a facsimile transceiver, and wherein step (c) comprises
3 controlling said mobile communication unit to establish a wireless link
4 between said facsimile transceiver and a mobile communication network.

1 9. A system for connecting a mobile communication unit with a
2 computer, comprising:

3 a connector having a recess for holding the mobile communication
4 unit and a plurality of connector ports;
5 switching circuitry for selectively establishing a connection between

6 internal circuitry of the computer and internal circuitry of said mobile
7 communication unit through said connector ports;
8 power supply circuitry for supplying power from a power source of
9 said computer to a rechargeable battery of said mobile communication unit;
10 and,
11 control circuitry for controlling said mobile communication unit
12 through said connection according to a command signal entered into said
13 computer.

1 10. The connecting system of claim 9, wherein said control circuitry
2 is provided in an interface card which is located within a slot of said
3 computer.

1 11. The connecting system of claim 9, wherein said control circuitry
2 is provided in an interface card which is located within said connector.

1 12. The connecting system of claim 9, wherein said serial port is in
2 accordance with specifications of Universal Serial Bus port.

1 13. The connecting system of claim 9, wherein said control circuitry
2 is responsive to a command signal for providing a power on-off control on
3 said mobile communication unit.

1 14. The connecting system of claim 9, further comprising a voltage
2 sensor for detecting a voltage generated by said power source of the
3 computer and a battery charger for supplying said power to said mobile
4 communication unit when the detected voltage is higher than a specified
5 voltage level.

1 15. The connecting system of claim 9, wherein said mobile
2 communication unit comprises:
3 a voice recognition circuit; and,
4 a memory for storing a plurality of stored phone numbers and reading
5 one of the stored phone numbers corresponding to an output signal of the
6 voice recognition circuit,
7 wherein said control circuitry is configured to supply a voice signal
8 from a microphone to said voice recognition circuit, receive a phone number
9 read from said memory in response to an output signal of the voice
10 recognition circuit which is produced as a result of said voice signal, and
11 display the received phone number on a screen of said computer.

1 16. The connecting system of claim 9, further comprising a graphics
2 data source for displaying a simulated image of said mobile communication
3 unit on a screen of said computer.

1 17. The connecting system of claim 9, wherein said computer is
2 provided with a voice input/output device, and wherein said control
3 circuitry is configured to control said mobile communication unit to establish
4 a wireless link between said voice input/output device and a mobile
5 communication network.

1 18. The connecting system of claim 9, wherein said computer is
2 provided with a packet processor, and wherein said control circuitry is
3 configured to control said mobile communication unit to establish a wireless
4 link between said packet processor and a mobile communication network.

1 19. The connecting system of claim 9, wherein said computer is

2 provided with a facsimile transceiver, and wherein said control circuitry is
3 configured to control said mobile communication unit to establish a wireless
4 link between said facsimile transceiver and a mobile communication
5 network.

1 20. A connection device for establishing connections between a
2 computer and a mobile communication unit having a rechargeable battery,
3 comprising:

4 a connector having a recess for holding the mobile communication
5 unit and a plurality of connector ports; and
6 an interface card connected through said connector ports to
7 internal circuitry of said mobile communication unit and connected through a
8 serial port to internal circuitry of said computer;

9 said interface card including:

10 power supply circuitry for supplying power from a power
11 source of said computer to said rechargeable battery of the mobile
12 communication unit;

13 switching circuitry for selectively establishing a connection
14 between the internal circuitry of the computer and the internal circuitry of the
15 mobile communication unit through said connector ports; and,

16 control circuitry for controlling said mobile communication unit
17 through said connection according to a command signal entered into said
18 computer.

1 21. The connection device of claim 20, wherein said interface card is
2 located within a slot of said computer.

1 22. The connection device of claim 20, wherein said interface card is

2 located within said connector.

1 23. The connection device of claim 20, wherein said interface card
2 is connected to said computer via a Universal Serial Bus port.

1 24. A method of connecting a mobile communication unit to a
2 computer, the method being substantially as herein described with reference to
3 and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

1 25. A system for connecting a mobile communication unit with a
2 computer, the system being substantially as herein described with reference to
3 and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

1 26. A connection device for establishing connections between a
2 computer and a mobile communication unit having a rechargeable battery, the
3 connection device being substantially as herein described with reference to and
4 as shown in the accompanying drawings.



Application No: GB 0105754.6
Claims searched: 1 to 26

Examiner: Nik Dowell
Date of search: 13 September 2001

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed. S): H2H (HBCH) H4L (LECTX)

Int Cl (Ed. 7): G06F (1/26, 1/28) H02J (7/00) H04B (1/38) H04Q (7/32)

Other: Online : WPI, EPODOC, PAJ

Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Identity of document and relevant passage | Relevant to claims |
|----------|--|--------------------|
| X,E | GB 2 354 122 A (Matsushita) see whole document | 1,9 at least |
| X | GB 2 334 413 A (NEC) see page 3, line 21 - page 4, line 19 | 1 |
| X,E | EP 1 113 562 A1 (NEC) see whole document | 1,9 at least |
| X | EP 0 889 659 A2 (Sharp) see abstract | 1,9 at least |
| X | WO 96/21900 A1 (Intel) see whole document | 1,9 at least |
| X | JP 100173802 A (Yazaki) see WPI abstract accession number 1998-420460 [36] | 1,9 at least |

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| X | Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step | A | Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art |
| Y | Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category. | P | Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention. |
| & | Member of the same patent family | E | Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application. |